



Route map through assessment

Course: Psychology

Level: National 5

This document is intended to assist teachers in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for psychology, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Psychology National 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/p/nqresource_tcm4745479.asp

Psychology National 5 course content

The main SQA psychology page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/66765.html>, with pages specifically related to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47401.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

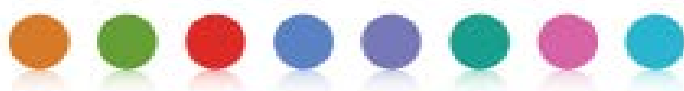
The course specification can be found at

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_HealthWellbeing_Psychology.pdf.

There are three units: Psychology: Research, Psychology: Individual Behaviour and Psychology: Social Behaviour.

Psychology: Research key topics: Introduction to the research process, research methods and ethics, factors involved in planning and carrying out psychological research, numerical skills and psychological terminology. Experimental and non-experimental methods, sampling and measures of central tendency. This unit will develop skills involved in psychological research, as well as numerical skills and an understanding of psychological terminology.

Psychology: Individual Behaviour key topics: Two topics are studied. The mandatory topic is sleep and dreams, which must be considered in relation to **two** mandatory approaches: the biological approach and the psychoanalytic approach. The optional topic is at the discretion of centres and must be studied using **two** approaches, one of which must be different from the two approaches used in the mandatory topic. Suggestions about appropriate optional topics can be found in the course support notes. *Note:* Within the mandatory topic sleep



and dreams learners must be able to describe and explain the Little Hans study, Freud (1909), and Dement and Kleitman (1957). This unit will develop skills in the ability to use approaches and theories to explain individual behaviour.

Psychology: Social Behaviour key topics: Two topics are studied. The mandatory topic is conformity. The optional topic is at the discretion of centres and suggestions about appropriate optional topics can be found in the course support notes. This unit will develop skills in the ability to use psychological concepts and research evidence to explain social behaviour. *Note:* Within the mandatory topic conformity learners must be able to describe and explain Asch (1951), and Mori and Arai (2010).

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on pages 7 and 8 of the course assessment specification. This breaks each unit down into sections and topics.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_HealthandWellbeing_Psychology.pdf

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_HealthWellbeing_Psychology.pdf

There is no National 3 or National 4 course in psychology, but the following document contains useful information on points of stability and areas of change.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Psychology_Course_comparison.pdf

Course assessment

At National 5 added value will be assessed in a course assessment, which consists of a question paper and an assignment. The course will be graded A–D.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_HealthandWellbeing_Psychology.pdf

Question paper

There will be a question paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes worth 50 marks, which will be carried out under exam conditions and marked by SQA. It will contain three questions, two worth 15 marks and one worth 20 marks. It will test skills, knowledge and understanding.

Specimen question paper and marking scheme: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/PsychologySQPN5.pdf.

Assignment

The assignment for Psychology National 5 is worth 30 marks and involves a report of between 800 and 1200 words. The assignment's purpose is to test learners' use of investigation and communication skills appropriate to psychology and will be marked by SQA. The assignment involves an open choice of topics within guidelines set by SQA. It will be conducted under some supervision and control. The assignment involves producing a report based on the background research of a topic in psychology, and a research plan for further research on this topic, although learners are not required to carry out the research for this assignment.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5Psychology.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Psychology National 5 course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_HealthWellbeing_Psychology.pdf

Each individual unit also has a National 5 unit specification.

Each unit specification gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards.

Psychology: Research

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Psychology_Research.pdf

Psychology: Individual Behaviour

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Psychology_IndividualBehaviour.pdf

Psychology: Social Behaviour

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Psychology_SocialBehaviour.pdf

Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully.

Evidence should be generated during the course of learning and teaching. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. All of the evidence does not have to be generated from one activity but can be from several tasks and assessments carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Staff should use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met. They should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Three different ways of gathering evidence have been provided by SQA. One approach is unit by unit. Another approach is the combined approach, which links knowledge and understanding from two units together. There is also the portfolio approach. Here evidence is gathered from everyday learning using key classroom tasks. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website, access to which is generally controlled by SQA co-ordinators within centres.

Verification

The verification process is meant to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a centre in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all centres. Evidence required for external verification events can be found at http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

SQA has also produced documentation concerning key messages arising from verification round 1, which gives centres further guidance on issues related to the verification process.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Psychology_VKM_Round_1.pdf

Internal verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities which mirror the procedures carried out previously in relation to NABs, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another presenting centre to cross mark.

External verification

In psychology schools will submit a sample of learner evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Centres must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

Results services

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

There are no longer any appeals. SQA offers two services: (1) Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (within ten days of sitting external assessment) and (2) Post Results Service. The latter consists of either a clerical check or a marking review. It is likely that these will be carried out in conjunction with the school SQA co-ordinator.

Prior verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/psychology/edweblinks.asp>.

Other useful websites

A new website has been established which gives a quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

This appears under three headings:

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

While there is no dedicated material for Psychology National 5 on the BBC website, the website does provide links to psychology as a subject area.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/search/learning/?q=psychology>